

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, and 12 are now pending in this application. There are no amendments in the present response.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over PCT WO 03/088589 (hereinafter "PCT '589") in view of UK 2,276,584 to Greig (hereinafter "UK '584"). Claims 4 and 12 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over UK '584 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,093,004 to Kile (hereinafter "U.S. '004"). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over PCT '589 in view of UK '584 and U.S. Patent No. 3,560,291 (hereinafter "U.S. '291"). Finally, claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over UK '584 in view of U.S. '004 and U.S. '291.

Claims 4 and 12 were rejected as obvious over PCT '589 in view of UK '584, and claims 4 and 5 were rejected as obvious over PCT '589 in view of UK '584 and U.S. '291. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present application has an international filing date of February 28, 2003. However, it claims priority to FR 0202732, filed March 4, 2002. The PCT '589 reference was published November 7, 2002. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.55, Applicants herein submit a certified English translation of the FR 0202732 priority document. With such submission, Applicants perfect their claim to priority before the PCT '589 reference. With this reference no longer properly available as prior art, the UK '584 and U.S. '291 references fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 4, 5, and 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 4 and 12 were rejected as obvious over UK '584 in view of U.S. '004. Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over UK '584 in view of U.S. '004 and U.S. '291. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 is directed to a process for assembling multilayer tapes. The process includes the steps of providing an unoriented plastic tubular support and at least a first and second tape. Each tape comprises at least one plastic layer oriented in at least one direction that is transparent to electromagnetic radiation, and at least one layer that partially absorbs the energy transported by electromagnetic radiation. A first tape is wound around the unoriented plastic tubular support, thereby forming a first tape thickness. An at least second tape is wound around the unoriented plastic tubular support and the first tape thickness, thereby forming at least a second tape thickness. Thereafter, electromagnetic radiation is applied in order to fusion bond the at least first and second tape thicknesses to each other and to the unoriented plastic tubular support. Claims 4 and 5 depend from claim 12.

The cited references do not render claim 12 obvious, as the references do not disclose all of the claimed elements. The process requires providing an unoriented plastic tubular support and providing tape that has at least one plastic layer oriented in at least one direction that is transparent to electromagnetic radiation, and at least one layer that partially absorbs the energy transported by electromagnetic radiation. UK '584 does not disclose providing an oriented tape and an unoriented support. Further, neither UK '584 nor U.S. '004 disclose providing tapes that have an oriented layer transparent to electromagnetic radiation and an absorptive layer. Failing to teach or suggest the provision of an unoriented tubular support and an oriented tape having a layer transparent to electromagnetic radiation, and a layer that partially absorbs the energy transported by electromagnetic radiation, the combination of UK '584 and U.S. '004 cannot render claim 12, nor claims 4 and 5 depending therefrom, obvious.

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Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

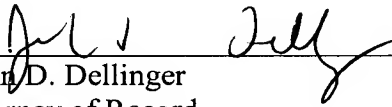
Respectfully submitted,

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